

Summary of Compost & Compost-Related Fertilizer Regulations

VERMONT

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Introduction

Nationally, organics, such as food and yard waste, constitute more than 25% of the municipal solid waste stream. And, this doesn't even include animal waste, such as manure. There is a renewed interest in diverting organics to compost and in producing value added products.

This document provides an overview of the existing laws as they pertain to the production of compost and fertilizer from compost. It is critical information for any compost processor or producer of fertilizer from compost. In addition to an overview of the laws, where they are available, hyperlinks to the full text are provided, as well as contact information for the regulatory agencies.

Compost

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Certification Exemptions

- a. The following activities are exempt from the provisions of the solid waste management rules:
 1. Composting of less than 10 tons (dry weight) per year of yard waste;
 2. Composting of less than 5 tons (dry weight) per year of site generated source separated organic waste;
 3. Composting any amount of the following farm generated materials: agricultural waste, newspaper, and yard waste;
 4. Composting of wood;
 5. Composting of any other material authorized by the Secretary and predicated by adequate demonstration by the applicant.
- b. Composting of any amount of septage and/or sludge does not qualify for an exemption.
- c. If the Secretary determines that a composting activity has or may pose a threat to the public health and safety, the environment, or constitutes a nuisance, the activity will not be exempt from the provisions of the solid waste management rules.

Categorical Certifications

- a. The following composting activities are eligible for categorical certifications:
 1. Composting of more than 10 tons (dry weight) of yard waste per year;
 2. Composting of up to 5 tons (dry weight) of compostable material per year;
 3. Composting that occurs on a farm, or other composting operations specifically approved by the Secretary in writing, that incorporate in addition to any amount of site-generated compostable materials, the following:
 - i. wood waste; or
 - ii. 1 ton (dry weight) per day, weekly average, of other compostable material, in addition to any amount of yard waste.
- b. Composting of any amount of septage and/or sludge does not qualify for categorical certification.

Full Certification

Facilities would need to apply for full certification if they do not fall within the required limits to qualify for exemption certification or categorical certification.

Fertilizer

6 V.S.A. Chapter 28--Fertilizer & Lime

[Vermont Fertilizer and Lime Regulations](#)

<http://www.vermontagriculture.com/ARMES/documents/FertilizerRegs.pdf>

Pertinent Definitions

Fertilizer means any substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients which is used for its plant nutrient content and which is designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth or health, except unprocessed animal or vegetable manures and other products exempted by the commissioner.

A *fertilizer* material is a substance which either:

- contains important quantities of at least one of the primary plant nutrients: nitrogen, phosphorus, or potassium;
- has 85 percent or more of its plant nutrient content present in the form of a single chemical compound; or
- is derived from a plant or chemical residue or by-product or natural material deposit which has been processed in such a way that its content of plant nutrients has not been materially changed except by purification and concentration.

Registration Requirement Per Product	Submitted annually
Labeling Requirements	Yes
Inspection Fee	Paid annually for fertilizer
Tonnage Reporting Requirements	Submitted annually for fertilizer
Inspection Responsibility	Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Contact Person	Jim Leland , (802) 828-3478
Website	http://www.vermontagriculture.com/index.htm